COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION
Because You – the Veteran – Earned It

The Adjutant General Directorate

"People Always ... Mission First"

Combat-Related Special Compensation Claim Workshop

Agenda

- What is CRSC?
- CRSC vs. CRDP
- CRSC Claim Workshop

What is CRSC?

What is CRSC?

- CRSC is Congressionally mandated program providing compensation for eligible retired veterans with "combat-related" injuries who have a 10-100% VA disability rating. CRSC began operation 1 June 2003 under the Army Human Resources Command (AHRC), by the United States Army Physical Disability Agency.

How does CRSC help retired veterans?

- Replaces the VA disability compensation that's subtracted from retired pay
- Restores military retired pay with tax free monthly payments and is paid retroactively
- Recognizes veterans for their sacrifice to our country

Who is Eligible?

Must Have *ALL four*

AND

Must Have *at least one* "combat-related" VA Disability

1. Receiving military retired pay
2. Military retired pay is reduced by VA disability payments (VA Waiver)
3. Have a 10% or greater VA rated disability

1. Simulating War (SW)
2. Hazardous Service (HS)
3. Instrumentality of War (IN)
4. Armed Conflict (AC)

Service-Related vs. Combat-Related

Service-Related

- Injury directly related to military service

Example:

– Hurt ***knee*** during Battalion run at Airborne School

Combat-Related Injury

- Injury contributed to any of the following situations:

Examples:

– Simulating War - hurt ***knee*** while reacting to enemy fire during FTX
– Hazardous Services - hurt ***knee*** on a night jump during SF school
– Instrumentality of War - hit ***knee*** on rotating tank turret during FTX
– Armed Conflict - shot in ***knee*** by enemy during Gulf War

CRSC vs. CRDP Decision Matrix

A Decision Matrix	CRSC *Benefit*	CRDP *Pay*
Full Concurrent Receipt	Yes	No – 10 yr phase in (except 100% ratings)
VA Rating Starts At	10%	50%
Federal Tax	Tax Free	Taxed
File Claims	Must Apply	Automatic
Retroactive Pay	Yes	No
Qualified Injury	Combat Linked	Service Connected
Subject to Uniform Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)	No	Yes
SBP (Survivor Benefit Plan) 1 October 1972	No	Yes
Available to Chapter 61 Medical and TDRL retirees with less than 20 years of service	Yes	No
Available to TERA retirees	Yes	Yes

CRSC In Action

Below is an example of the CRSC benefit:

A retiree receives a total of $1,521 a month for military retired pay and has been awarded VA service-connected disabilities at 100% and combat "related" disabilities at 50%

With CRDP	
Military Retired Pay (E7)	$1,521
VA Offset	- $1,521
VA Pay (100%)	+$2,600
CRDP (100%)	+$1,521
Total Pay =	$4,121 Total
$2,600 Tax-Free / $ 1,521 Taxed	

With CRSC	
Military Retired Pay	$1,521
VA Offset	-$1,521
VA Pay (100%)	+$2,600
CRSC (50%)	+$750
Total Pay =	$3,350 Tax-Fre

Why Claims are Denied

Top Reasons CRSC Claims are Not Approved:

1) Official documentation provided does not tell *"HOW"* the injury occurred to link it to a combat related event
2) The VA rating decision *"narrative summary"* was not provided
3) Claim was not signed by the retiree

Before submitting your claim determine…

Did I supply evidence that ***verifies*** ***"HOW"*** I got the injury?

CRSC Claim Pages

- CRSC Claim Pages: Retired veterans complete pages 1 – 3 only when submitting a claim (the cover page and the appendix should not be mailed into the CRSC office)
- Each page provides a step-by-step guide to what information is needed

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CRSC Claim Page 1

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CLAIM FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC)

SECTION I - PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)
7. MAILING ADDRESS
a. STREET (Include apartment number or P.O. Box)
2. SOCIAL SECURITY OR EMPLOYEE ID NUMBER
3. RETIRED RANK/RATE
4. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)
5. TELEPHONE (Include area code)
b. CITY
c. STATE
6. E-MAIL ADDRESS
d. ZIP CODE

SECTION II - PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS

8. MARK (X) NEXT TO THE APPROPRIATE ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION.

QUALIFICATION BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2008	YES	NO
a. Were you entitled to retired pay for regular service, having completed at least 20 years of service prior to January 1, 2008?		
OR		
b. Were you entitled to retired pay for reserve service, having completed at least 20 years of combined active and reserve service and having reached age 60 prior to January 1, 2008?		
OR		
c. Were you entitled to retired pay for reserve service under the Reserve TERA program having completed at least 15 but less than 20 years of combined active and reserve service and having reached age 60 prior to January 1, 2008? NOTE: You must provide proof of the retirement authority by attaching a copy of your Retirement Orders and/ or a copy of your 15 year letter. Evidence must clearly state that you were a reservist and you retired under Section 12731a of title 10, United States Code.		
QUALIFICATION ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2008		
d. Are you currently entitled to military retired pay for any reason, other than early reserve retirement for physical disabilities not incurred in line of duty (i.e., other than section 12731b of title 10, United States Code?		

NOTE: If you answered NO to all questions a through d above, you are not eligible for CRSC.

SECTION III - SERVICE HISTORY

You must provide copies of evidence needed to verify this information (i.e., DD214's, awards, evaluations, etc.).

9. FROM WHICH SERVICE DID YOU RETIRE? Provide a copy of your retirement orders or "retirement" DD214. To expedite this claim it is important that you mail your claim to the service you retired from.

ARMY | NAVY/USMC | AIR FORCE | NOAA CORPS | COAST GUARD | PUBLIC HEALTH

10. DID YOU SERVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WARS OR COMBAT OPERATIONS? (X all that apply) (Provide a copy of a DD214/award citation or any other evidence that verifies ANY combat service.)

WWI	WWII	KOREAN WAR	VIETNAM	GULF WAR	OIF/OEF	OTHER (e.g., a SF Ops mission - explain where and when and provide evidence.)

11. WERE YOU EVER A PRISONER OF WAR (POW)? YES NO

IF YES, Indicate Where/When/How long (Provide any official evidence available):

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Name and Social Security Number

Section I
Personal Identification

Section II
Preliminary CRSC Criteria

Section III
Service History

Must provide copies of all evidentiary documentation

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CRSC Claim Page 2

When <u>more than</u> 1 combat-related injuries is documented:
<u>Photocopy this page</u>, for each additional disability, complete, and attach with your claim form

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CLAIM FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC)

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) | SOCIAL SECURITY OR EMPLOYEE ID NUMBER

NOTE: To ensure the review of all of your requested disabilities, limit **ONE** disability for each page. You are authorized to make additional copies of this page for any additional disabilities. You may list any secondary conditions that are connected to a disability on the bottom of the sheet that it has been connected to. In order to award any disability as secondary we must have a copy of the evidence from VA or from your medical records which clearly states that the condition is the result of the primary condition you are requesting. Good evidence could include a VA rating decision that clearly states (for example), "hypertension is secondary to diabetes."
It is your responsibility to supply any evidence necessary to verify this disability is combat-related.

SECTION IV - REQUEST FOR COMBAT-RELATEDNESS DETERMINATION

12. VA FILE NUMBER (If known)

13. DISABILITY DESCRIPTION

a. TITLE OF DISABILITY (As written on the VA rating decision.) | b. BODY PART AFFECTED. (e.g., right knee)

c. VA DISABILITY CODE (If known) | d. DATE AWARDED BY VA (YYYYMMDD) | e. INITIAL RATING % BY THE VA | f. CURRENT RATING % BY THE VA

g. COMBAT-RELATED CODE (Mark (X) the code that best describes what caused the disability.) (See Appendix A for code descriptions.)

PH PURPLE HEART	AC ARMED CONFLICT	HS HAZARDOUS SERVICE	SW SIMULATING WAR	IN INSTRUMENT OF WAR	AO AGENT ORANGE	RE RADIATION	GW or MG GULF WAR or MUSTARD GAS

h. UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT WHEN INJURED | i. LOCATION/AREA OF ASSIGNMENT WHEN INJURED

j. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE DISABILITY AND HOW IT MEETS THE GUIDELINES OF COMBAT-RELATED.

	YES	NO	N/A
k. DID YOU RECEIVE A PURPLE HEART (PH) FOR THIS INJURY? If YES, attach documentation to verify that you were awarded a PH and any evidence that proves what occurred or what body part was injured. NOTE: Proof of being awarded a PH does not always allow us to award a disability as PH. We need to know what the PH was awarded for. For example, send the medevac report and DD214.			
l. DID VA EVER DOCUMENT THAT THIS CONDITION CAUSED SECONDARY DISABILITIES? If YES, you must provide evidence from VA or your medical records which state that the conditions listed in item 13.m., below, are indeed caused by the primary condition listed above. We cannot award any condition as secondary without evidence to support the claim. Attach the VA rating decision for all secondary conditions. NOTE: If YES, list all secondary conditions in item 13.m., below.	YES	NO	

m. VA DETERMINED THAT THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE SECONDARY CONDITIONS TO THE PRIMARY DISABILITY (Listed in item 13.a., above).

(1) DISABILITY CODE	(2) DESCRIPTION	(3) % AWARDED BY VA	(4) DATE AWARDED (YYYYMMDD)

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<u>Section IV</u>
Combat-relatedness determination (Description of Injury)

Description of Secondary Disability

(if applicable)

Ambassador Coded Forms have **V3AM** in the top corner

Name and Social Security Number

If you photocopy, be sure to fill in the "page _ of _" so we are aware that all applicable pages are present.

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CRSC Claim Page 3

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CLAIM FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC)

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	SOCIAL SECURITY OR EMPLOYEE ID NUMBER

SECTION V - REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

14. In order to process your claim the following records *(if applicable)* **must be submitted with this claim.** Do not send ANY original documents - COPIES only!

a. All DD214's and DD215's (especially if for retirement or showing combat ribbons).

b. Retirement orders and supporting documents.

c. Reserve Retirement point computation including any 15-year or 20-year letter (if applicable).

d. Copies of ALL VA Rating Decisions, letters, and code sheets (current and prior). Do NOT remove any pages. All VA documents discussing changes in benefits including Special Monthly Compensation (SCM) and/or Individual Unemployability (IU).

e. Medical records or notes that verify how the injury/disability occurred. (Do NOT send EKGs, lab slips, CDs, diskettes or other electronic media.)

f. Physical Evaluation Board (MEB-PEB) results and/or summaries.

g. Any evidence which can be used to verify the events or circumstances.

SECTION VI - CERTIFICATION AND WAIVER OF CONCURRENT RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY PAYMENTS (CRDP)

16. Complete this section to enable the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) or the applicable pay center for non-DoD retirees to make any CRSC payments you qualify to receive.

a. I understand that if I am eligible for both Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) under 10 U.S.C., section 1414 and Special Compensation for Certain Combat-Related Disabled Uniformed Service Retirees under 10 U.S.C., section 1413a (CRSC), I may not receive both, but must elect which to receive.

b. I understand that if my election results in any retroactive payments, any previously paid amounts of CRDP, SCSD, or CRSC for that period of time will be deducted from any amount due for that period.

c. Under penalties of perjury, the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and provided with the full knowledge of the penalties for making false statements (18 U.S.C. 287 and 1001 provide for a penalty of not more than $10,000 fine, or 5 years in prison, or both; 31 U.S.C. 3279 provides civil penalties; and 31 U.S.C. 3802 provides administrative penalties).

d. I hereby understand that payments will be deposited to my account of record for Uniformed Services retired pay if I am currently receiving such payments. Otherwise, they will be made to the account of record for my VA disability compensation. After payments begin, I must advise DFAS or the applicable non-DoD pay center of any changes to my account.

e. SIGNATURE	f. DATE SIGNED (YYYYMMDD)

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Name and Social Security Number

Section V Documentation Inventory

Section VI – Certification and *Waiver* of Concurrent Retirement and Disability payments (CRDP) *

Signature REQUIRED!

* If you are currently receiving CRDP payments and apply for CRSC, DFAS will give you whichever payment is higher.

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How to File a Claim

Step 1-	**Review the CRSC Information Document, Claim Guide and Claim form on the CRSC web site (can be downloaded)**
Step 2-	**Review all of your VA rating decisions to see if they state -"HOW" you got the injury (see the document "Completing a Successful CRSC Claim" on our website for assistance)**
Step 3-	**Determine if any decision states HOW the injury occurred**
Step 4-	If YES **to Step 3, complete the CRSC claim form or apply online at www.crsc.army.mil** If NO **to Step 3, then go though your personnel and medical records to find any evidence verifying your claim (see the document "Completing a Successful CRSC Claim" on our website)**
Step 5-	**Attach required documentation and send completed claim form to: Department of the Army; ATTN: CRSC Division 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332**

NOTE: *The VA and MTF must send documents that CRSC cannot*

Submitting a Successful CRSC Claim

- DO Submit:
  - A signed claim form
  - Copies of ALL VA rating decisions which include the letter and the narrative summaries
  - Copies of ALL DD214's and DD215's
  - Official documentary evidence that supports "HOW" the specific disability being claimed can be linked to a combat-related event
- DO NOT Submit:
  - Medical records that do not pertain to the disability being claimed
  - Electronic media, EKGs, lab slips, or dental records
  - Personal or "Buddy" statements

Documentation – What you need to know

- CRSC needs to see a specific event that caused the disability being claimed in the medical documentation you provide
- Unnecessary paperwork can impede the claim process
- All documentation must be from a military treatment facility or VA medical center or clinic
- CRSC does not have access to your military records
- We know that there are many deserving Retirees that may never find evidence to verify their CRSC claim. However, regardless of why you do not have evidence, we will be unable to award any compensation from CRSC without something official that tells us how you got your injury or what caused your illness

Claims Assistance is Available

- CRSC offers helpful E-tools to assist retirees during the claim process on our Website or through our call center
  - Procuring missing documents
  - Tips to preparing a successful claim
  - Frequently Asked Questions
- Retirement Service Officers, Ambassadors around the globe, and other veteran advocates can assist you with the claims process

How You Can Get Involved

Become a CRSC Ambassador!

- Provide educational and claim assistance to retirees in your local area
- Gain access to CRSC training calls
- Receive personalized tools and resources

Sign up today at www.crsc.army.mil

***Click on* "Ambassadors"**

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Website: www.crsc.army.mil

Email: crsc.info@us.army.mil

Call: 1-866-281-3254
(M-F 0800-1900 hrs EST)

Questions?

Become an Official Ambassador - Contact us above!

We recognize that all injuries impact a Soldier's life, and we appreciate the sacrifice of every Soldier.